

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams, each of said plurality of broadcast content streams having multiple detectable content attributes, said monitoring system operable to (i) receive the plurality of broadcast content streams, (ii) monitor the plurality of broadcast content streams, (iii) sense a content change in at least one of said detectable content attributes within at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said detectable content attributes, (iiiiv) detect a characteristic in said sensed content change that matches a criteria indicative of said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said sensed content change, and (iiiv) selectively generate a notification signal as a function of based on said indication of said detected special event content and a threshold level of a subscriber profile.

Claim 2 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said subscriber profile is stored in memory and comprises at least one record that maintains at least one measurable characteristic of an associated subscriber.

Claim 3 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said stored subscriber profile is initially set as a default profile.

Claim 4 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said monitoring system is further operable to update said stored subscriber profile.

Claim 5 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said subscriber profile provides a mathematical representation of a notification preference of an associated subscriber.

Claim 6 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said subscriber profile is automatically generated by said monitoring system at definition and includes a default notification preference that is modifiable by said associated subscriber.

Claim 7 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said monitoring system, as a function of said mathematical representation of said notification preference, generates said notification signal to selectively direct at least one of a plurality of communication units to communicate a message to said associated subscriber.

Claim 8 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising a content monitoring controller that is operable to (i) receive said plurality of broadcast content streams from at least one receiver, (ii) monitor said plurality of received broadcast content streams, and (iii) sense content changes in said plurality of received broadcast content streams as a function of said detectable content attributes.

Claim 9 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising a special event detecting controller that identifies special event content as a function of said sensed content change, said content detecting controller operable to direct at least one of a plurality of communication units to communicate a message to an associated subscriber as a function of said notification signal.

Claim 10 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said special event detecting controller is further operable to identify said sensed content change as one of scheduled broadcast content and unscheduled broadcast content that preempts scheduled broadcast content.

Claim 11 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said

monitoring system is further operable to monitor at least one of audio content, video content and textual content within said plurality of broadcast content streams.

Claim 12 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said monitoring system detects said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content.

Claim 13 (original): The monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams as set forth in Claim 11 wherein ones of said detectable content attributes include a transcript of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content, and monitoring system detects said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said transcript.

Claim 14 (original): A method of operating a monitoring system that is capable of identifying special event content within a plurality of broadcast content streams, each of said plurality of broadcast content streams having detectable content attributes, said method of operation comprising the steps of:

sensing a content change within at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said detectable content attributes;

detecting said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said sensed content change; and selectively generating a notification signal as a function of said detected special event content and a subscriber profile.

Claim 15 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said subscriber profile is stored in memory and comprises at least one record that maintains at least one measurable characteristic of an associated subscriber.

Claim 16 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said stored subscriber profile is initially set as a default profile.

Claim 17 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in 15 wherein said monitoring system is further operable to update said stored subscriber profile.

Claim 18 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said subscriber profile provides a mathematical representation of a notification preference of an associated subscriber.

Claim 19 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 18 wherein said subscriber profile is automatically generated by said monitoring system at definition and includes a default notification preference that is modifiable by said associated subscriber.

Claim 20 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 18 further comprising the step of generating, as a function of said mathematical representation, said notification signal to selectively direct at least one of a plurality of communication units to communicate a message to said associated subscriber.

Claim 21 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said plurality of broadcast content streams from at least one receiver;
and

monitoring said plurality of received broadcast content streams.

Claim 22 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 14 further comprising the step of directing at least one of a plurality of communication units to communicate a message to an associated subscriber as a function of said notification signal.

Claim 23 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising the step of identifying said sensed content change as one of scheduled broadcast content and unscheduled broadcast content that preempts scheduled broadcast content.

Claim 24 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 14 further comprising the step of monitoring at least one of audio content, video content and textual content within said plurality of broadcast content streams.

Claim 25 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 24 wherein said step of detecting said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams is as a function of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content.

Claim 26 (original): The method of operating the monitoring system as set forth in Claim 24 wherein ones of said detectable content attributes include a transcript of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content, and said step of detecting

said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams is as a function of said transcript.

Claim 27 (original): An appliance comprising:

a receiver capable of receiving broadcast content streams; and

a monitoring system capable of identifying special event content within said received broadcast content streams, each of said received broadcast content streams having detectable content attributes, said monitoring system operable to (i) sense a content change within at least one of said received broadcast content streams as a function of said detectable content attributes, (ii) detect said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said received broadcast content streams as a function of said sensed content change, and (iii) selectively generate a notification signal as a function of said detected special event content and a subscriber profile.

Claim 28 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said subscriber profile is stored in memory and comprises at least one record that maintains at least one measurable characteristic of an associated subscriber.

Claim 29 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 28 wherein said stored subscriber profile is initially set as a default profile.

Claim 30 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 28 wherein said monitoring system is further operable to update said stored subscriber profile.

Claim 31 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 28 wherein said subscriber profile provides a mathematical representation of a notification preference of an associated subscriber.

Claim 32 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 31 wherein said subscriber profile is automatically generated by said monitoring system at definition and includes a default notification preference that is modifiable by said associated subscriber.

Claim 33 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 32 wherein said monitoring system, as a function of said mathematical representation of said notification preference, generates said notification signal to selectively direct at least one of a plurality of communication units to communicate a message to said associated subscriber.

Claim 34 (original): The appliance as set forth in Claim 27 wherein said monitoring system is further operable to identify said sensed content change as one of scheduled broadcast content and unscheduled broadcast content that preempts scheduled broadcast content.

Claim 35 (original): The appliance set forth in Claim 27 wherein said subscriber profile is actively associated therewith.

Claim 36 (original): The appliance set forth in Claim 27 wherein said subscriber profile is passively associated therewith.

Claim 37 (original): The appliance set forth in Claim 27 wherein said monitoring system is further operable to monitor at least one of audio content, video content and textual content within said plurality of broadcast content streams.

Claim 38 (original): The appliance set forth in Claim 37 wherein said monitoring system detects said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content.

Claim 39 (original): The appliance set forth in Claim 37 wherein ones of said detectable content attributes include a transcript of said at least one of audio content, video content and textual content, and monitoring system detects said special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said transcript.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method for selectively generating a notification signal ~~selectively generated~~ as a function of detected special event content and a subscriber profile, ~~said notification signal selectively generated~~ the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a plurality of broadcast content streams, each of said plurality of broadcast content streams having detectable content attributes;

sensing a content change within at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said detectable content attributes; and

detecting special event content broadcast within said at least one of said plurality of broadcast content streams as a function of said sensed content change.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method ~~selectively generated notification signal~~ as set forth in Claim 40 wherein said signal directs operation of an appliance.

Claim 42 (original): The selectively generated notification signal as set forth in Claim 41 wherein said associated appliance is capable of operating in one of an active mode and a standby mode and, when said appliance is operating in said standby mode, said signal directs said associated appliance to switch from said standby mode to said active mode.